United Nations A/56/401–S/2001/903

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 September 2001
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 24 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates conveying the official decision of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to break off diplomatic relations with the Taliban Government of Afghanistan. In this statement, the United Arab Emirates expresses regret at the failure of the Taliban Government to respond to the efforts which it and other States have made to convince that Government to hand over Osama bin Laden so that he can face a fair international trial following the accusations made against him in connection with the terrorist attacks which took place in Washington, D.C., New York and Pennsylvania.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdelaziz Ben Naser **Al-Shamsi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Severance of diplomatic relations with the Taliban Government

The Government of the United Arab Emirates has decided to sever diplomatic relations with the Taliban Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

This announcement was made today by an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who said that over the past few days the United Arab Emirates had made intensive efforts with the Taliban Government to persuade it to respond to the request of the United Nations Security Council that it should hand over Osama bin Laden to face a fair international trial on the accusations made against him relating to the terrorist attacks which took place in New York and Washington, D.C., on 11 September 2001. These attacks resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and constitute a threat to peace, security and stability throughout the world.

The official expressed regret that the Taliban Government had failed to respond to these efforts by the United Arab Emirates and other States. He said that the United Arab Emirates did not believe that it was possible under these circumstances to maintain diplomatic relations with a Government that refused to respond to the clear will of the international community, as represented by the Security Council, and had therefore decided to sever diplomatic relations with the Taliban Government of Afghanistan with effect from that day.

In conclusion, the official said that the United Arab Emirates, motivated by its concern for the safety of the Afghan people, expressed the hope that the responsible authorities in Afghanistan would re-examine their position and would respond to the requests of the international community.